

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. 1. A guidewire advancement device comprising:
a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end;
a flexible tube for holding the guidewire, the
flexible tube having a port;
a housing having an opening for feeding the
guidewire through, the housing being coupled to a
distal end of the flexible tube, and the housing
having a straightener thereon that includes a
straightener tube having a length and diameter to
straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire as
the guidewire is passed through the straightener tube;
and
an access mechanism to expose a portion of the
guidewire positioned and through which the portion of
the guidewire can be manually engaged.
 2. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein
the access mechanism is an aperture on the flexible
tube.
 3. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein
the access mechanism is an aperture on the housing.
 4. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 further
comprising a frictionally engaging element for
selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.
 5. The guidewire advancement device of claim 4 wherein
the access mechanism is an aperture and the
frictionally engaging element overlies the aperture.
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6. The guidewire advancement device of claim 5 wherein ¹ ~~the aperture is on the flexible tube and further~~ ^{casing} comprising a second aperture on the flexible tube.

5 7. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein the access mechanism is an aperture and further comprising a frictionally engaging element for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.

10 8. The guidewire advancement device of claim 7 wherein the frictionally engaging element for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire has a plurality of rollers.

9. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein the aperture is on the flexible tube.

15 10. The guidewire advancement device of claim 7 wherein the frictionally engaging element for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire has a slideable bar.

11. The guidewire advancement device of claim 10 wherein the aperture is on the flexible tube.

20 3/ 12. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 further comprising a retaining element for retaining the flexible tube in the shape of a loop.

25 13. The guidewire advancement device of claim 12 wherein the access mechanism is an aperture on the flexible tube and further comprising a frictionally engaging element having a plurality of roller for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.

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14. The guidewire advancement device of claim 12 wherein the access mechanism is an aperture on the flexible tube and further comprising a frictionally engaging element having a slideable bar for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.

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a 15. The guidewire advancement device of claim 14 further comprising a cannula that receives the guidewire from the straightener.

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16. A guidewire advancement device for a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end, the guidewire advancement device comprising:
a flexible tube for containing the guidewire;
a housing having a housing tube for receiving the guidewire, the guidewire extending through a first end of the housing and through a second end of the housing;

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an aperture to expose a portion of the guidewire positioned in the flexible tube and through which the portion of the guidewire can be manually engaged; and

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a straightener that is connected to the housing tube and receives the guidewire displaced through the housing, the straightener including a straightener tube having a length and diameter to straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire.

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17. The guidewire advancement device of claim 16 wherein the housing having a second housing tube for receiving a second portion of the guidewire.

18. The guidewire advancement device of claim 16 further comprising a second aperture to expose a portion of the guidewire positioned in the ^{casing} flexible tube and

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through which the portion of the guidewire can be manually engaged.

19. The guidewire advancement device of claim 18 wherein the housing further comprises a second housing tube for receiving a second portion of the guidewire and the housing overlies both the first and second aperture of the flexible tube.
20. The guidewire advancement device of claim 17 wherein the flexible tube is retained in the shape of a loop by the housing.
21. The guidewire advancement device of claim 20 further comprising a cannula that receives the guidewire from the straightener.
22. The guidewire advancement device of claim 21 wherein the guidewire can be manually engaged through the aperture without an intervening mechanical element.

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